

What is claimed is:

1. A system for securing transactional data transmitted over a wireless network in a store comprising:

a bogus message generator coupled to a wireless terminal in a store, the bogus message generator for generating bogus messages to be transmitted by the wireless terminal;

a store host computer for receiving transactional and bogus messages from the wireless terminal; and

a communication parameter regulator for measuring a communication parameter on the store host computer so that the bogus message generator is activated in accordance with the measured communication parameter.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein:

the communication parameter regulator is a load balancer for measuring dead space in a communication bandwidth between the store host computer and the wireless terminal.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the bogus message generator terminates bogus message generation in response to a bogus message time expiration.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the bogus message generator terminates bogus message generation in response to a bona fide transaction occurring at the wireless terminal.
5. The system of claim 2 wherein the load balancer generates a bogus message request in response to the computed dead space being greater than a threshold.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein the wireless terminal further comprising:
  - an encryption module for encrypting the bogus messages transmitted to the store host computer.
7. The system of claim 6 wherein the store host computer further comprising an encryption module for decrypting the bogus messages received from the wireless terminal.

8. A method for securing transactional data communicated over a wireless network in a store comprising:
- generating bogus transactional messages for transmission over a wireless communication network for communicating data between a store host computer and a terminal located in a store; and
  - transmitting the bogus transactional messages over the wireless communication network during dead space intervals.
9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
- monitoring communication traffic at a store host computer; and
  - computing dead space intervals for transmission of the bogus transactional messages from the monitored communication traffic.
10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:
- generating a bogus request message in response to the computed dead space being less than a threshold.
11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:
- activating the bogus transactional message generation in response to receiving the bogus request message.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

terminating the bogus transactional message generation in response to a bogus message timer expiration.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

terminating the bogus transactional message generation in response to a bona fide transaction occurring at a terminal where the bogus transactional message generation is occurring.

14. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

parsing a received transactional message at a store host computer;

detecting a bogus transactional message received at a store host computer; and

discarding the detected bogus transactional message so the store host computer does not process the bogus transactional message for transaction approval.

15. A point-of-sale terminal for communicating transactional messages

over a wireless communication network to a store host computer comprising:

a bogus message generator for generating bogus transactional messages; and

a transmitter coupled to the bogus message generator for sending the generated bogus transactional messages to a store host computer.

16. The terminal of claim 15 wherein the bogus message generator generates bogus transactional messages in accordance with parameters received in a bogus request message.
17. The terminal of claim 16 wherein the bogus message generator generates the bogus transactional messages in accordance with a message length parameter received in the bogus request message.
18. The terminal of claim 15 wherein the bogus message generator includes a bogus message timer and the bogus message generator generates the bogus transactional messages until the bogus message timer expires.
19. The terminal of claim 18 wherein the bogus message generator sets the bogus message timer in accordance with a bogus time generation value received in a bogus request message.
20. The terminal of claim 15 wherein the bogus message generator terminates the bogus transactional message generation in response to a bona fide transaction.